

Macdonald C.I.
"We've Got You Covered."



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Canada Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Being LGBTQ+

GSA (Gender-Sexuality Alliance)

Being LGBTQ+ is one of the best parts of us, but it's also something that brings a lot of hardships to our lives.

Being LGBTQ+ can be absolutely amazing. It is the process of discovering your identity and the joy of others when they see who you truly are. It is an experience like no other. The LGBTQ+ community is beautiful. You can find other people who are like you. You can see the representation that you never got to see in all of your childhood shows and movies. Things start to make sense.

Along the journey, there are people who support you unconditionally. Those who feel truly happy for you when you come out and listen when you can't. Those who are proud of you before you are secure enough to be proud of yourself. Those that correct people on misconceptions and stand up for you. There are so many incredible allies that we love and appreciate.

On the other hand, being LGBTQ+ is terrifying. Statistics of survival and violence hang over our heads as we walk home, and horror stories are casually told at lunch time. There will always be uncertainties when coming out. Often, the people who should support us the most simply don't. They get mad at us for being ourselves. Being LGBTQ+ sometimes means walking down the halls with caution. Being LGBTQ+ sometimes means having to say nothing as a kid says "no homo" defensively, as another uses "gay" as insult, and as others casually use offensive slurs.

We are exhausted. We don't need support shouted from the rooftops. We don't need people buying flags or going to parades with us. We just want respect. We just want to be treated as human. Why do we have to fight for that?

SAC's June Spirit Days

Jatin Taploo

For the month of June, the SAC wanted to end their year with a bang. They planned two spirit days, both sharing a strong focus on the summer and the "June-vibe". This month, the SAC planned Tourist Day and 6ix Day. On Tourist Day, students wore outfits that matched the summer aesthetic, such as beach-wear. On 6ix Day, students wore outfits that match Toronto, which is commonly referred to as "The 6".

I discussed the spirit days with Judy Zhang, SAC's current President. She said, "Spirit Days may not be the biggest events at Mac, but they keep school spirit alive and allow for the entire student body to participate in the same activity. It's a nice bonding experience and often an excuse to dress up! I love them." She was also excited, yet sad to leave Macdonald, exclaiming, "I attended Mac for all four years of high school and I never failed to participate in the monthly spirit days! In fact, sometimes they were the reason why I looked forward to school. I'm truly going to miss the close-knit community that a high school provides, but I will cherish these memories as I move onto post-secondary."

As the year ends, many Blackscots leave and many enter. Judy said she is excited about the new recruits to the SAC committee. She shares, "Next year's team is composed of very diligent students, some of whom I've worked with this year. I have no doubt that they will warmly welcome our newest members, be leaders of the school, and work together to make the 2022-2023 school year absolutely amazing."

On behalf of the SAC, we hope you all enjoyed your Spirit Days. Continue listening to the announcements for future events coming back in September!

Tourist Day



Photo Credits : Rachel Tang

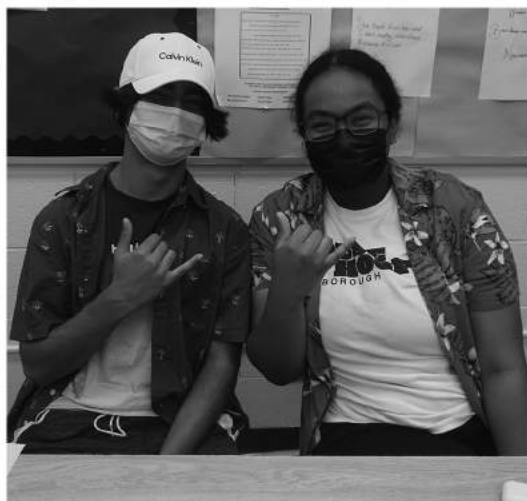


Photo Credits : YiLin Luan

End of the Year Events at Mac

Vishva Sritharan

The school year has definitely been a wild experience, but June is the month that wraps things up. Whether it's been your first or final year at Mac, we hope you enjoyed the ride! To sum up our year, clubs at Mac have hosted their end-of-the-year events.

For all of our Mac athletes, the Athletic Banquet was phenomenal. It was jam-packed with fun, great vibes, food (of course), as well as awards. We congratulate all of the athletes who received awards and we hope that those who attended had an exquisite time.

Wait, what about Prom? What better way to end off your last year of high school than with Prom! Like the Athletic Banquet, Prom will be an enjoyable, memorable experience for everyone. On that note, we hope you graduating Mac students have a bright future ahead of you!

How about our lovely clubs and classes? Well, the MIA hosted their MIA Barbecue, filled with delicious foods and great times! However, it was not the only party being hosted. Mac's Strings students had their String Fling dinner at Mandarin to celebrate another amazing year of music.

Whatever it was, however it was, whenever it was, we hope your last days of school were filled with joy and anticipation for the summer. We wish you an exciting summer, Mac!

Athletic Banquet



Photo Credits : Maria Tsoutsos

Clubs and Councils

Mac In Action's Food Drive

Jatin Taploo

Mac In Action's Food Drive was one of the many activities going on during the last month of the school year. All proceeds of the charity went to 36 families in need!

I conversed with Prince Xu, MIA's Public Relations Officer and Media Promotions Coordinator. He told me, "I feel that MIA's Food Drive was a huge success in collaboration with an organization called Empowering Young Women. I think that overall, the school showed strong participation in the event." Prince was very excited about this Food Drive, adding that "the goal of the food drive was to collect as many non-perishable food items and hygiene products as possible to help 36 families in need. Any extra food was donated to local charities."

All in all, Mac In Action's Food Drive was a success, bringing joy to so many families. Be sure to find more information about the Food Drive and future MIA events happening next year on their Instagram page, @macinaction!

A Busy Year For The Yearbook Committee

Jatin Taploo



Photo Credits : Helen Liu

The Yearbook Committee has been through thick and thin, taking photos and capturing the best moments of our school life. It's been a busy year for them, as they had to work through the pandemic, as well as the social distancing and mask mandates.

I spoke with Nancy Zou and YouYou Wu, both Editors-in-Chief of Yearbook. YouYou said she is extremely proud of the Yearbook Committee and is excited for the Yearbook. She exclaimed, "I think our theme this year perfectly captures the story of 2021-2022, and I hope you will think so as well! To add on, this is my first time being the cover designer alongside our beloved Head of Layout, Helen Liu, for a big project like this. Therefore, I am even more curious to see the final product."

Nancy's last year at Macdonald has been bittersweet. She said, "I will certainly miss everything that comes with making the yearbook—the late nights (mostly the pizza), the friends I've made, and the memories we created while capturing life at Mac. While we made sure that everyone will enjoy the book, I especially hope my fellow Class of 2022 will see themselves well-represented, be it in the Senior Superlatives or the candid pages! I can't wait to flip through the pages over the summer, and maybe years from now, to relive the great memories and even greater people at Mac."

Additionally, YouYou says that the time spent creating the yearbooks was very challenging, but she is proud of what they created. YouYou said, "It definitely was an experience trying to complete a full-sized yearbook when some of the student population was online and the rest wore masks. Our work progress had to adapt and accommodate TPH and TDSB's constantly changing regulations and rules."

Similarly, Nancy was also grateful for their ability to create a nearly 'normal' yearbook despite the abnormal year: "Despite the setbacks this year, our team has worked endlessly to complete a shining yearbook that we—and you, hopefully!—are very proud of." All in all, we hope you appreciate the product of the Yearbook Committee's endless efforts!

Buddy System Program

Brandon Feng

Do you remember what it was like when you first arrived at Mac? We are all familiar with that feeling of anticipation, eagerness and perhaps even dread as we walked through the halls for the first time. Everyone was older than us and many of your friends from middle school were nowhere to be found at Mac.

This September, around two hundred new Grade 9 students are expected to arrive at Mac and encounter the exact same experience. Some of them will be excited to see their friends after summer break, whereas some will certainly be intimidated by the concept of high school.

Mac's new Buddy System Program aims to help these new students out. Fifty Grade 10 and 11 students have been accepted into Buddy and Executive Buddy positions, and will be assuming their roles in the coming school year. There is something that these fifty current Blackscots have that the incoming Blackscots don't—familiarity with the school. What happens during a student's first few weeks at Mac could possibly affect their long term impressions of the school. By sharing their connections, knowledge, and experience with the incoming students, all Buddies hope to help Grade 9s gain comfort around our school.

I had the opportunity to ask Mr. Hung a few questions about the Buddy System Program; here are a few of his thoughts:

What made you want to run the program?

That's a great question. [...] Let's start with WHY. The transition from elementary school to secondary school is exciting. It could also be a bit daunting. The well being of our students at this time is paramount. The Buddy System Program helps incoming Grade 9 students adjust to secondary school life as quickly as possible. At Mac, our goal is to build the Buddy System Program to provide Grade 9 students with the opportunity to develop strong relationships and connections with their buddies from senior grades.

Is there a possibility that the Buddy System Program might work with other clubs and student organizations in school to help facilitate more events for incoming Grade 9's?

Absolutely! The purpose of the Buddy System Program is to support all Grade 9 students during their adjustment from elementary to secondary school life. Therefore, it is possible for the Buddy System Program to work with other clubs and student organizations in school to help facilitate more events for the incoming students.

What is Student Leadership, Voice and Engagement? How did it help the Buddy System Program take off?

Student Leadership, Voice and Engagement is about looking at our student body at Mac not for what it is, but for what it could be. In order to add value to all students, we use the following framework:

- Collecting data (data = Student Voice)
- Analyzing data
- Providing a data-driven solution

For example, during March's Question of The Month, we asked all Mac students, "Would you like to see a Buddy System Program take place at Mac?". At the time of this interview, our goal was to build the Buddy System Program with eight Executive Buddies and forty Buddies to support the two hundred Grade 9s coming in September.

Thank you for speaking with us, Mr. Hung! Overall, the Buddy System Program is working hard towards providing a smooth and less nerve-wracking transition from middle to secondary school. Please stay tuned for more information, Mac!

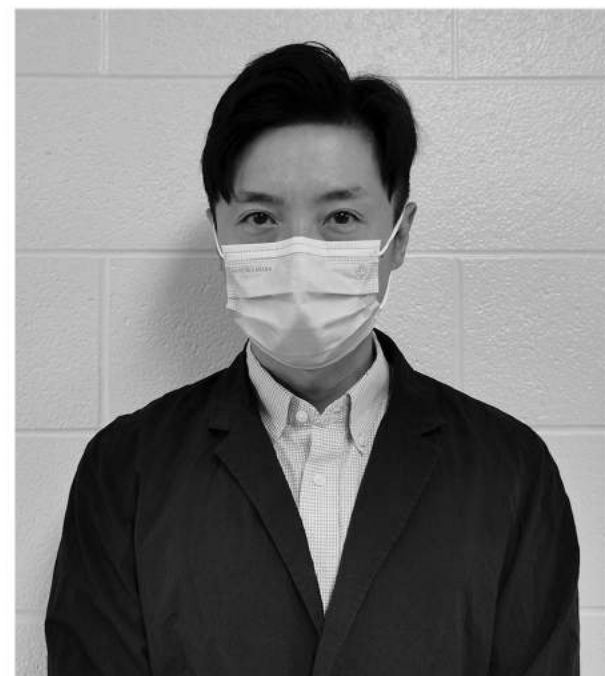


Photo Credits : ZhenYan Lin

Mrs. Katrivanos' Summer Reading Suggestions

Selena Sarwari



Photo Credits : ZhenYan Lin

Summer is a time of enjoyment and fun. The break that comes with it looms just around the corner and is something many of us eagerly jump at the prospect of. However, we bookworms who rely on the school library as our main source of entertainment are internally screaming! Why, you may ask? We're losing much more than a couple months of school—we're losing access to all the books we've read and have yet to read!

Don't fret! If you're wondering about where to find good books to read, or what are good books for summer reading, Mrs. Katrivanos, Mac's head librarian, has the answers!

Mrs. Katrivanos began her recommendations with the Toronto Public Library, which offers many books and resources. She states, "Everyone should get a library card, as it's free and quite easy to obtain!" She also states that another place to go to receive books is at the newly renovated library branch near Mel Lastman Square. It's a great place, one that readers and non-readers alike should check-out! It features a variety of books and programs, and even has a piano room!

When it comes to genre recommendations, Mrs. Katrivanos began, "Everyone has their specific taste." However, for summer reading, light and breezy books such as short romantic comedies or thrilling long fantasies are great choices! For rom-coms or lighter reads for summer, she recommends *Yes, No, Maybe, So* by Becky Albertalli and Aisha Saeed, *Loveboat, Taipei* by Abigail Hing Wen, *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman, and Jenny Han's *To All The Boys I've Loved Before*.



For longer, more immersive and thrilling stories, books such as *The Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo, *the Children of the Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi, *Six Crimson Cranes* by Elizabeth Lim, *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson, and *The Inheritance Games* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes are all top choices to pick from.



Thomas King, Marissa Meyers, Holly Black, Victoria Aveyard, Alice Oseman, Nic Stone, and Kate Locke are authors that Ms. Katrivanos can rely on to not only challenge the reader to go beyond their comfort zone, but write compelling stories that address societal concerns. In fact, Kate Locke is known for her famous White Pine winner, *What Unbreakable Looks Like*.

Whether you're a bookworm waiting to sink your teeth into as many novels as possible while free from school for two months, or if you're just a bored student, reading is a great hobby and awesome way to spend your time. No matter the genre, we hope that these summer reading recommendations help you on your journey of book-hunting and make your summer better, Blackscots!

Student Summer Plans

Selena Sarwari

After a long year filled with COVID-19 chaos, Blackscots are ready for summer vacation! These two months are a well-deserved break from writing tests and assignments, for both students and educators. Do you know what you would like to do over your two months off?

To answer my questions, I asked Evan Chen, a Grade 12 student. Evan answered that his ideal summer would consist of being in temperatures no higher than 28 degrees, with moderate sunshine. One thing he hopes he can do during this summer is to travel the city, with more freedom and less concern for COVID-19 as restrictions are being lifted. He also hopes to visit British Columbia with his family. A few summer goals that Evan hopes to accomplish are to learn how to cook, increase his flexibility, and improve his dance skills. In preparation for university, Evan said that he's hoping to use his summer to work on his procrastination and strengthen his willpower, so that he can be mentally prepared for the next big chapter in his life.

The second student I interviewed was Sumedha Gosh in Grade 9. Sumedha said that her ideal summer is one where she can isolate herself in her room where the heat can't bother her, watch several TV shows, and read numerous books! Unfortunately for her ideal summer, she shared, "What I'm actually doing this summer is going on a trip with my family to Alberta, where we'll go zip-lining and visiting a wolf-dog sanctuary." She also said that she'll be volunteering at a summer camp, where she'll most likely have a "heat stroke" due to the overbearing temperatures. Sumedha went on to say that the main goal of her summer is to relax and finish shows and movies that she's started watching this school year.

The third student I interviewed was Oviya Ajanthan, another Grade 9 student, who shared her summer goals: to spend quality time with friends and family and to enjoy the peaceful, calm moments that summer will bring. She would also like to spend a lot of time at the beach—something she's been looking forward to all year! To prepare for her upcoming Grade 10 school year, she'll probably devote August to reviewing course material from Grade 9. Overall, she's especially looking forward to summer as she has a lot she wants to do!

So, how about you, Mac? How do you visualize your ideal summer? Busy and goal-oriented in preparation for the upcoming new school year, or breezy and calm, where the main goal is just to lay back and relax? Regardless, we hope you will have a great one, Blackscots!

Closing Off

MIA Barbecue

Jatin Taploo

Mac In Action's new members for the 2022-23 school year hosted Mac In Action's Barbecue on June 22nd.

I first spoke with Prince Xu, who will be the PRO of MIA for the 2022-23 school year. He says he is very excited about this barbecue and thanks all the students who helped with the MIA events. He said, "Beef and veggie burgers will be sold [for \$3.00] at the barbecue. A combo [for \$4.00] comes with chips and water. The barbecue will be held on Wednesday, June 22 at lunch." He adds, "I feel that it's a good way to thank all the volunteers who have participated in MIA events over the last two years. [...] The entire student body at Mac is welcome to come! MIA volunteers will be given a volunteer ticket and those who bring their volunteer tickets will get a combo for free!"

I also spoke with Jessica Mu, who will be the Budget Coordinator next year. She says she is looking forward to the barbecue because food is the best: "Beef and veggie burgers plus drinks will be at the barbecue. It is a barbecue for everyone!" Jessica is very excited to be part of the new MIA team this September, and says that she is very grateful for all the helpful people who aided in the MIA events.

Parting Words From Your Senior Editors-In-Chief

Karen Mitro & Nancy Zou

Hey Blackscots, we are Karen Mitro and Nancy Zou, the Senior Editors-In-Chief of Mac News! You may not have seen our names often on the monthly paper, but everything that has appeared on Mac News has gone through us. Before we depart on our journey beyond the halls of Mac, we wanted to share some thoughts with you!

Karen Mitro:

When I was first presented the opportunity to become an Editor-In-Chief at Mac News, I was hesitant. As somebody who rarely got involved in school extracurriculars, I couldn't see myself as capable or experienced enough to help lead a council to which I was a stranger.

However, I cannot be more thankful to have been offered the position. Alisa Yan and Vivian Guo, the Sr. Editors-In-Chief that year, were kind in guiding us and serving as role models for us Jr. Editors-In-Chief. In addition, the council members, along with Ms. Diamandas and Mr. Brown, were very supportive and welcomed me with open arms. I was impressed with the council's dedication and hardwork; despite the 2020-2021 school year being one full of uncertainties, setbacks, and chaos, Mac News was one of the few Mac councils still running in full swing, making everything work.

In retrospect, the position gave me invaluable leadership skills and experience. It challenged my shyness and fears of taking initiative and responsibility. Even though I initially panicked at the mere thought of leadership, the gratification I received from watching our ideas form into beautiful final products made it completely worthwhile.

My message for incoming and returning Mac students is to never be afraid to get involved! It doesn't have to be with Mac News (though our council would love to have you next year). You shouldn't worry even if you have limited background or experience. As long as you keep an open mind and show commitment, almost all clubs and councils at Mac will welcome you. High school is the perfect time to try new things and see what you like and dislike, so I would definitely recommend stepping out of your comfort zone and exploring the variety of extracurriculars generously offered by Mac!

Before I hand things over to Nancy, I would like to express to her my deepest gratitude for being with me every step of the way. I am so fortunate to have been able to work and share moments with such a talented, sweet, funny, brilliant, and amazing young woman like her!

Nancy Zou:

Entering high school, I was an impossibly shy person and I was also very determined to change that. Mac News was one of the first councils I joined to meet peers who shared my interests. Through these extracurriculars, I got to spend time with all kinds of students, many of whom I consider some of my greatest friends.

High school evidently tests our ability to learn, adapt, and overcome — let alone during a pandemic. But, with the added challenge of juggling extracurricular and academic responsibilities, I was pushed to become the best leader I can be... for now! I've learned to manage my time, communicate effectively, and master Google Sheets and Google Forms as a Head of Knitting Club, an Editor-In-Chief of Yearbook, and the Vice-President of Mac Business.

But, it was the consistency of Mac News' team and teachers, even through the pandemic, that impressed and inspired me most. When I graduate from Mac and head off to the University of Waterloo for Biomedical Engineering, I will have Mac News to thank. I have only come so far because my experience on this council, both as a member and a leader, has molded me into the more assured and competent person I am today.

Although our high school experience has been warped by the pandemic, you can still make the most of it! Joining extracurriculars did so much more for me than help in university applications. And, like Karen said, it doesn't have to be Mac News! Be a part of something you're passionate about and contribute to the school community — our school and your future self will thank you.

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank Mr. Brown and Ms. Diamandas for being such supportive figures throughout my time at Mac. We leave Mac News in good hands with Victoria Lin and Sachi Taploo and we hope for the council's continued success! And, as she moves toward her bright future as a student at Schulich School of Business, I want to share that it has been an ineffable honour to work alongside the most awesome and most considerate Karen Mitro.



Photo Credits : ZhenYan Lin

HAPPY COMMENCEMENT!



Comic Credits: Helen Liu